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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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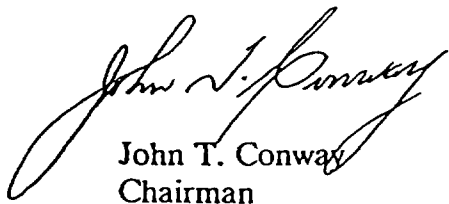
Honorable James D. Watkins
Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed for your review and consideration is a final report, prepared for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board by the MITRE Corporation, entitled "Comparative Review of Safety Standards for Department of Energy Defense Nuclear Facilities." As you will recall, you were furnished a draft version of the report. On June 29, 1990, you notified the Board that you had transmitted the draft report to DOE's Task Force on Nuclear Safety Directives for its consideration.

Although the Board provided guidance and direction to MITRE throughout the development of this document, the Board's review of the final report is not yet complete. Because of the importance of safety standards to you personally, to DOE, and to the Board, we did not want to delay transmittal of the final report to you until our own review was completed. When we have finished our review, we will prepare whatever recommendations, or take other action, as the Board deems appropriate. In the meantime, the Board would appreciate receiving any comments or observations you may have regarding the issues raised by the report. We are confident that you will find it an important and useful document.

Sincerely,



John T. Conway
Chairman

Enclosure